



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Innovative
Technology
Administration**

Research and Innovative Technology Administration

Update

Terry Shelton

**32nd International Forum on
Traffic Records and
Highway Safety Systems**

Tuesday, August 1, 2006

8:00am – 9:30am





U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Innovative
Technology
Administration**

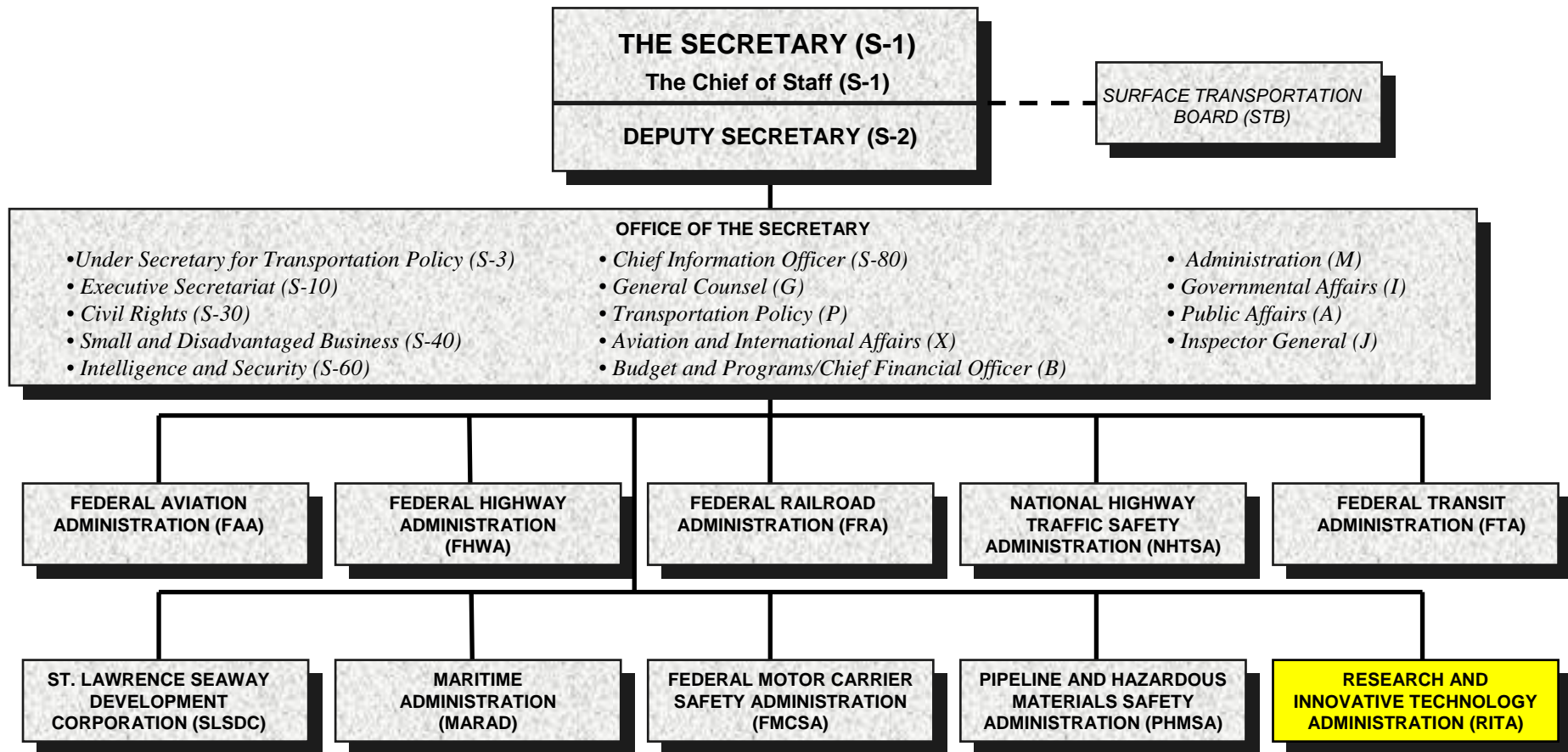
Today's Update

- About RITA
- Where BTS fits in
- BTS News
 - Office of Airline Information
 - Commodity Flow Survey
 - Geospatial Information Program



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Innovative
Technology
Administration**

RITA's Place in DOT





U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Innovative
Technology
Administration**

Research and Innovative Technology Administration

- Created in law November, 2004 as part of a DOT reorganization, commenced operations February 2005
- Brought together powerful research, data and training assets previously spread across DOT

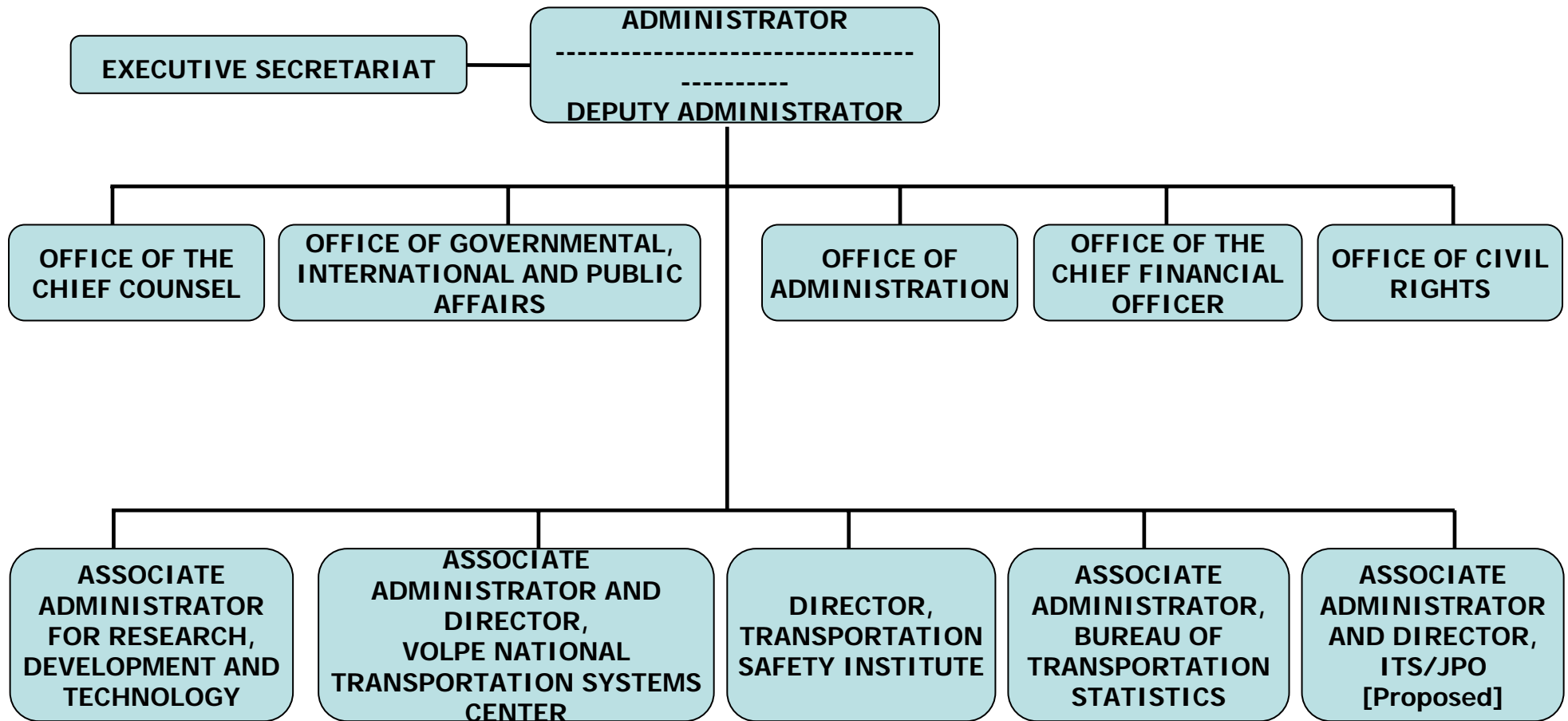


U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Innovative
Technology
Administration**

RITA's Program Assets

- Office of Research, Development and Technology (RD&T)
 - Office of Intermodalism
 - University Transportation Centers
- Bureau of Transportation Statistics
 - National Transportation Library
- Volpe National Transportation Systems Center
- Transportation Safety Institute
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Joint Program Office

RITA Organization





RITA's Focus

- **Coordination, facilitation and review** of DOT's research and development programs and activities.
- **Advancement, research and development** of innovative technologies, including ITS
- **Comprehensive transportation statistics** research, analysis and reporting
- **Education and training** of transportation and safety professionals
- **Engineering and technical deployment** through the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center.



RITA: Where BTS Fits In

- High quality data is essential to trend spotting and research priority-setting
- Inclusion of BTS in RITA ensures alignment of data activities with DOT research priorities



BTS Focus

Cross-modal data activities:

- Collect
- Improve quality
- Protect confidentiality
- Disseminate
- Conduct analysis



Customers

- DOT Offices and Agencies
- Congress
- Other Federal Agencies
- State DOTs and GIS Councils
- Academia
- Private Consultants
- Transportation Associations



What BTS Collects

- Airline data
- Freight Data
 - Commodity Flow Survey (CFS)
 - Transborder Freight Data
- National Ferry Database
- Rail Safety Data
- Border Crossing/Entry Data
- Miscellaneous surveys



What BTS Disseminates

- Airline data (monthly and quarterly)
- National Transportation Statistics (ongoing updates)
- State Transportation Statistics
- National Transportation Atlas Database
- Trans-border and border crossing data
- Economic Indexes: Transportation Services Index, Air Travel Price Index
- Various data compilations...and more!

Visit www.bts.gov!



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Innovative
Technology
Administration**

How BTS Improves Data Quality

- By establishing data quality standards
- Giving technical assistance to federal and state agencies
- Analyzing inconsistent data definitions



Conducting Data Analyses

- Establishing performance measures for transportation
- Economic analyses of transportation
- Rail safety data analysis -- close calls and observational/behavioral data
- Special analyses for Congress, the Secretary and other decision makers



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Innovative
Technology
Administration**

Office of Airline Information (OAI)

- Airline traffic, finance, fare, fuel, employment and other operating data
- The only data collection program housed within BTS



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Innovative
Technology
Administration**

Commodity Flow Survey (CFS)

- Conducted every 5 years by Census Bureau with major BTS financial and technical support (since 1993)
- Primary source of nationwide data on the flow of goods
- Used to assess and analyze:
 - regional flow density
 - capacity
 - congestion
 - hazardous material movements



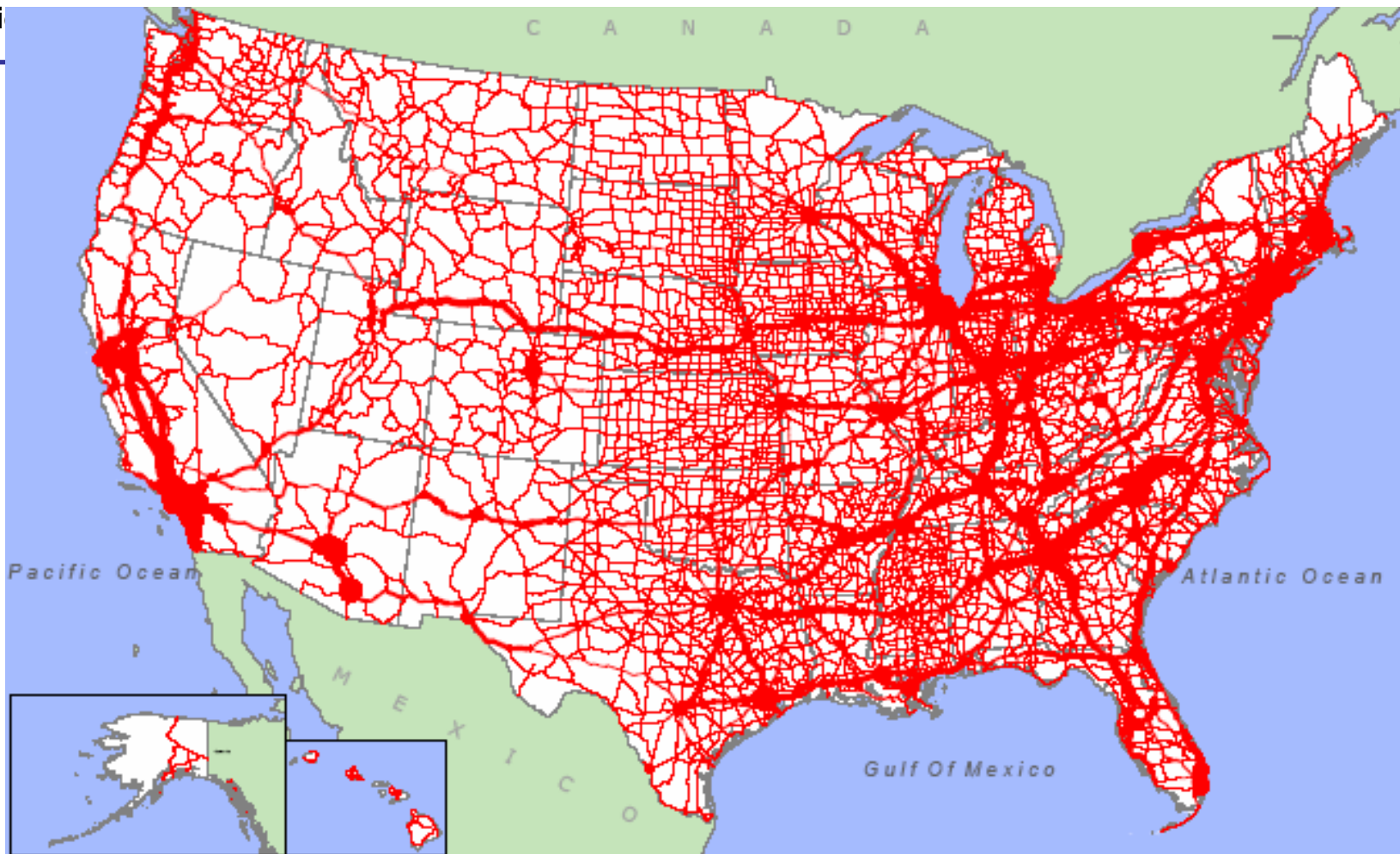
CFS: Status

- Planning for 2007 survey underway
- Working through April 2006 MOU with US Bureau of Census
- Significant improvements in:
 - sampling design
 - data collection
 - estimation methodology
 - mileage calculation
 - data products



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Innovative
Technology
Administration**

Estimated Average Annual Daily Truck Traffic: 1998

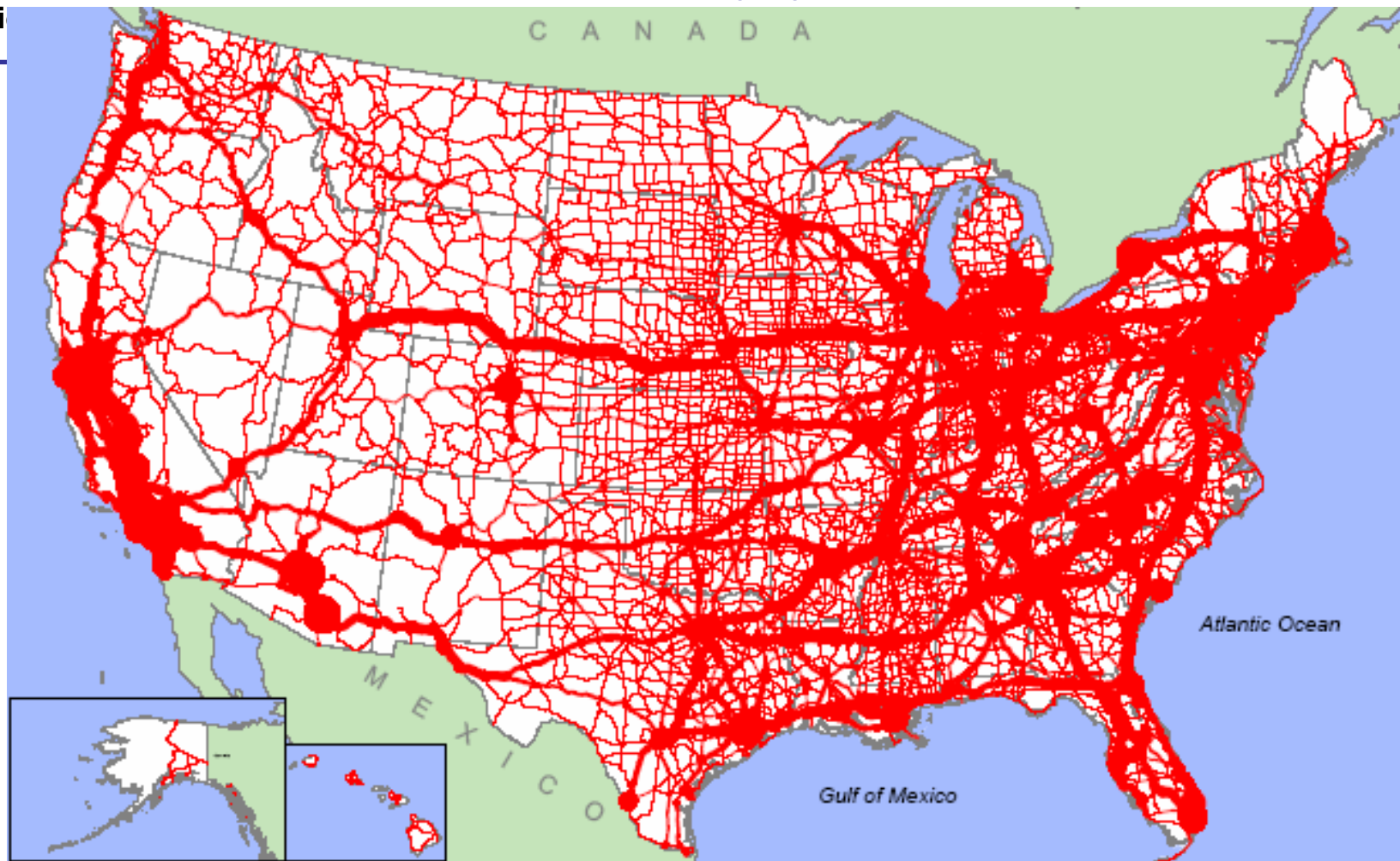


Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Freight Management and Operations, Freight Analysis Framework.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Innovative
Technology
Administration**

Estimated Average Annual Daily Truck Traffic: 2020



Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Freight Management and Operations, Freight Analysis Framework.



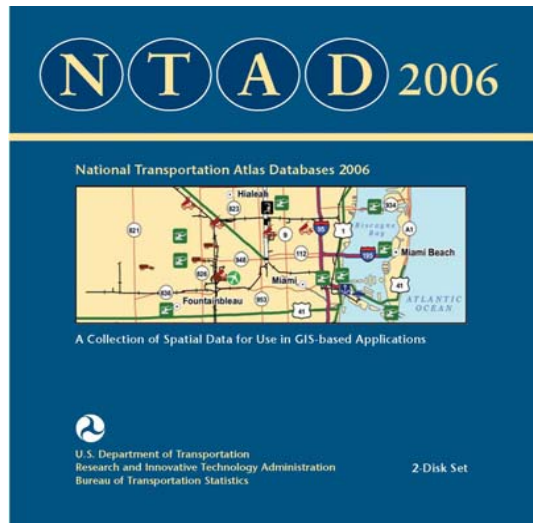
Geospatial Information Program

- Focal point of geospatial expertise in DOT
 - Coordinate with others to build the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) transportation layer.
 - Compile transportation data and publish the National Transportation Atlas Databases (NTAD) Product.
- Represent DOT in intragency groups
- Data standard development lead.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Innovative
Technology
Administration**

National Transportation Atlas Databases (NTAD)



- Annual geospatial data compilation
- Data from DOT's Operating Administrations and other Federal Agencies
- Includes:
 - Transportation Networks
 - Transportation Facilities

Official Release date August 7, 2007

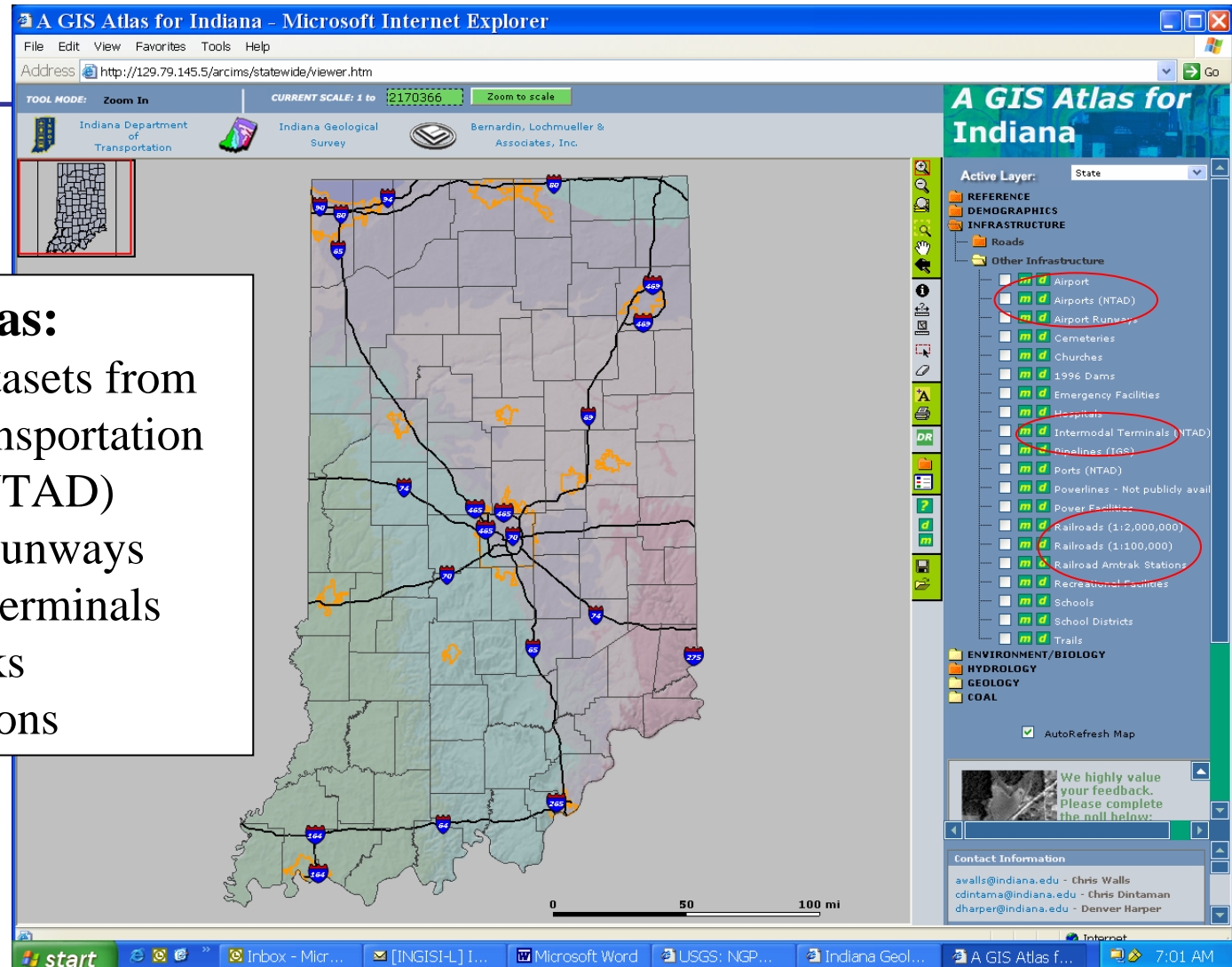


States Rely on BTS Data

Indiana GIS Atlas:

Uses geospatial datasets from
BTS' National Transportation
Atlas Databases (NTAD)

- Airports & Runways
- Intermodal Terminals
- Rail Networks
- Amtrak Stations





Major Ongoing Initiatives for BTS

- Office of Airline Information
- Commodity Flow Survey 2007
- National Ferry Database
- Rail Safety Data – Confidential Close Calls Reporting System



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Innovative
Technology
Administration**

Questions?

Web: www.bts.gov

Email: answers@bts.gov

Terry.shelton@dot.gov